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NSC BRIEFING

16 JANUARY 1955

JAPAN-SOVIET TALKS

- I. Japan-Soviet peace treaty talks scheduled resume in London tomorrow.
 - A. Backed by unified government and public opinion, Japan intends maintain firm initial position.
 - B. Soviet veto of Japan's UN admission has strengthened Japan's determination not to succumb to Soviet pressure tactics.
- II. Chief Soviet negotiator, Malik, has complained that USSR has made all the concessions in talks so far.
 - A. Sovs have agreed to return Habomais and Shikotan, dropped demand that Japan agree not to join any military alliances.
 - B. Will probably now demand that Japan also make concessions, believing that UN membership rebuff has actually made Japanese more, rather than less, amenable.
- III. Major issues:
 - A. Timing of return of Jap POW's (Japan wants them back before treaty, Soviets after).
 - B. Disposition of Kuriles and South Sakhalin (Japan wants two southernmost Kurile islands on historical grounds, disposition of other territory to be settled later by general informational agreement).
 - C. Freedom of Sea of Japan (USSR wants to ban all but warships of reparian powers from Sea).
 1. This issue impinges on US-Japan treaty relations; Japan not likely to give in.

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IV. However, Premier Hatoyama wants quick settlement

A. If negotiations drag, he may attempt to overrule the foreign ministry, seek compromise on POW, territorial issues (possibly accept one, concede on other).

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